

Rotherham abuse survivors  
speak to Sadie Robinson >>Pages 10&11

'We can make a  
difference for the future'

Why 'common sense' ideas of white privilege fail  
>>Pages 14&15

How black and white  
unity can beat racism



# Socialist Worker

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## GLOBAL MARKETS IN CHAOS



SMALL INVESTORS in Beijing, China,  
watch as their savings disappear in  
this week's market crash

PICTURE: PA

# THEY WANT US TO PAY AGAIN!

NOT JUST CHINA >>PAGE 3 ● BANKRUPT SYSTEM >>PAGE 5

### LABOUR

Right in a frenzy  
over Jeremy  
Corbyn's success

LEFT CANDIDATE Jeremy Corbyn has faced smears and attacks from the right as 620,000 people take part in the election of a new Labour leader.

The right wing are denouncing a new voting system they brought in because they are worried that it may enable the left to win.  
>>Page 7

### IMMIGRATION



Determined  
refugees break  
down borders

THOUSANDS OF refugees forced open the border between Greece and Macedonia last Saturday.

They are fleeing poverty and war.

Our rulers are determined to strengthen Fortress Europe's external borders but we say all refugees should be welcome here.

>>Pages 4&5

### PRIVATISATION

All-out National Gallery strike is growing stronger

THE DISMISSAL of National Gallery PCS union rep Candy Udwin was upheld last week but the all-out strike by her colleagues against privatisation is getting stronger.

Solidarity has also made a big impact with various groups of workers visiting the pickets.  
>>Page 20



## THE THINGS THEY SAY

**'The night sky over London was thick with choking black smoke rising from a myriad burning buildings...'**

The Daily Mail offers a vision of Britain if Jeremy Corbyn becomes Labour leader

**'Mr Corbyn's beard has been cited as central to his appeal'**

The Mail on Corbyn

**'Millions of drunk German wasps cause chaos across Britain'**

Peak Daily Star is reached

**'Work is good for your health'**

Iain Duncan Smith on why he is attacking sickness benefits

**'So what are the right looks?'**

Spectator columnist Charles Moore grills women Labour leadership candidates

**'Provocative and sassy, like the wonderful one with a strong northern accent whose name I have forgotten'**

Moore on the one with the 'right looks', sort of



# Duncan Smith doles out real sanctions and fake claimants

**IAIN DUNCAN** Smith launched yet another initiative to attack people on benefits this week.

Meanwhile his shameless department invented quotes from fictional welfare claimants to justify harsh benefit sanctions.

In one leaflet a smiling "Sarah" said she was "pleased" to have had her benefits chopped, as it helped her change her ways.

Nowhere did the leaflet suggest she was not real.

Oddly Sarah also appears on a Universal Credit website—cast this time as a dynamic jobseeker "standing out from the crowd".

"Zac" is unlucky. He managed not to get sanctioned for missing a meeting in one leaflet but then the unfortunate non-existent Zac has his JSA cut off in another one. The

A SPOKESWOMAN for David Cameron—he is still on holiday—said that there definitely wouldn't be an inquiry into how long the Chilcott inquiry into the Iraq war is taking. It presumably would take too long.

There is still no date set for the Chilcot Inquiry to report.

The inquiry finished in February 2011.

Soon, soon honest

### DWP LEAFLETS lies

**WEST YORKSHIRE** police seized a car in which a homeless couple were living, because it was uninsured. They then posted a picture, hashtags **#walkofshame**, on their Twitter account showing the pair leaving with their possessions. The cops then tweeted **#carinsurance** **#nohomeinsurance**. Pigs.

## Iran is invaded by Tories and bosses

TORY DEFENCE secretary Philip Hammond went to Iran to reopen the British embassy this week.

Britain and Iran have a long and friendly history.

The Iranians minded British oil under their land for decades. A friendly coup in 1953 made the friendship even stronger.

Graffiti sprayed on the wall above a picture of the queen remains, reading, "Death to England. Death to Israel. As long as we are alive, we are fighting."

And there is much to fight. Along with the

Tory went Edward Daniels, Shell's executive vice-president, an unnamed senior manager at Amec Foster Wheeler, energy infrastructure group; and Vikas Handa, an executive at Weir Group, which provides services to the oil and gas industry.

Graham Cartledge, chairman of the architects. Simon Walker, director-general of the Institute of Directors, Anthony Browne, chief executive of the British Bankers' Association, and Simon Moore, international director of the CBI.

The writing is on the wall

## Chelsea Tories don't want to kill the poor

THE COUNCIL of the richest borough in London, Kensington and Chelsea, is concerned for the poor. It says giving to beggars contributes to their deaths.

Tory council leader Nicholas Paget-Brown said, "Our anti-begging campaign is really asking people to help in a different way".

The Crisis charity responded more sensibly. "We know

from our own clients how important a simple act of kindness can be to those in desperate circumstances, yet by far the most important thing is that people can get the dedicated support they need to escape the streets for good."

According to the latest government statistics there are 2,269 vacant dwellings in the plush borough.

In other news last week 53

Caring conservatives

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## I don't want to drink in Maggie's bar

A CITY trader who punched a man in a Margaret Thatcher-themed nightclub has been fined £300.

Joseph Stephen Crawley pleaded guilty to assault. Maggies in Fulham Road, Chelsea, has Eighties memorabilia and speeches by Thatcher playing in the toilets.

Judge Jeremy Coleman, sentencing told Crawley, "Perhaps this sort of nightlife, these sorts of bars, are not for you, and perhaps something a little more mundane would be appropriate in future."

Who else would want to go there?

## GOING DOWN



**£1.2 BN**

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg suffered an estimated £1.2 billion loss last week to see his reported fortune plunge to a mere £24 billion

**£2.9 BN**

Warren Buffett, an investor and the world's third wealthiest person, with a £2.9 billion loss in fortune last week. He only has £46 billion left

## Museum of torture set for London

SECRETIVE entrepreneur John Hunt plans to create a spy museum in London.

"The applicant's vision is to deliver the headquarters for Spyscape: a contemporary museum based on the theme of intelligence and cybersecurity, using large scale fully immersive interactives as well as stunning original artefacts and mixed media storytelling techniques," says a planning application.

Whether immersive refers to waterboarding is unclear.

# Markets in turmoil expose myth of economic recovery

by JUDITH ORR

**GLOBAL FINANCIAL** markets were in turmoil this week after China's stock market suffered its biggest one-day plunge since 2007. The crisis has been dubbed "Black Monday".

Newspaper headlines the following day concentrated on markets that had bounced back.

But the instability isn't over. It has sent a shudder through the global economy—and exposes the lies about its recovery.

In China many ordinary people were encouraged to buy shares, sometimes with borrowed money.

They have watched as their investments were wiped out.

Politicians and pundits across the world tried to hold back the panic. They argued that other countries could ride out a problem that was simply "made in China".

## Collapse

But the Chinese collapse is already hitting the Australian, Brazilian, Indonesian, Japanese and South Korean economies.

That's because China is the second biggest economy in the world and the second biggest importer of goods and commercial services.

This huge market shows just why China's crisis is impacting on other countries, including Britain, that rely on selling exports.

Tory chancellor George Osborne could only say he was "reasonably confident" that it wouldn't have a big impact in Britain and the rest of Europe.

But over £70 billion was wiped off the value of shares on the London Stock Exchange on Monday of this week.

China is Britain's seventh biggest export market.

Its seemingly never-ending expansion led some economists to argue



THE CHINESE share plunge has already hit Western economies

that it was an exception to a system riven with crisis. They said it could drag the rest of the world economy out of recession.

But now China's economy is faltering. It has shown that it's suffering from the same crisis of profitability as every other capitalist economy is today.

Despite devaluing its currency

earlier this month, which should make its exports cheaper, the slowdown is accelerating.

China's financial markets have rocketed in recent years.

The main index of the Shanghai stock market doubled in the 12 months to June.

Many commentators blame specific issues shaping the Chinese markets.

Unite the Resistance  
National Conference 2015

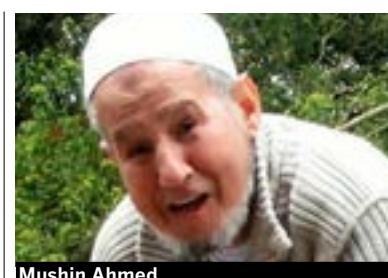
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## Elderly Muslim man dies after attack



Mushin Ahmed

OVER 100 people attended a vigil in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, last Saturday to remember Mushin Ahmed.

The 81 year old died on Thursday of last week, 11 days after he was attacked while walking to a mosque for morning prayers. He was left with serious head injuries.

Police have not ruled out that the attack was racially-motivated.

Two men have been charged in connection with the assault and a further two arrested and bailed.

The vigil, called by Unite Against Fascism (UAF), was attended by trade unionists, socialists, representative from faith groups and many local Yemenis.

Phil Turner from Rotherham

UAF told Socialist Worker, "People in Rotherham are shocked and appalled at what has happened."

"The vigil was very dignified, but there was also a lot of anger."

Fascists and racists have tried to capitalise on the Rotherham child sexual exploitation scandal

exposed in a report last year. They push the racist myth that there is a connection between Islam and abuse.

They have failed to make any real headway in Rotherham. But their presence helps create an atmosphere that encourages racism—and makes racist assaults more likely.

Activists are organising to protest against the Nazi Britain First group, which plans to demonstrate in Rotherham on Saturday 5 September.

**Jay Williams**

Join the UAF protest—Saturday 5 September, 12.30pm, All Saints Square, Rotherham town centre. Turn to pages 10&11 for more on the Rotherham abuse scandal

## IN BRIEF

### Blacklisters to win contract

**BLACKLISTING FIRM** Balfour Beatty is set to win the £28 million contract from Dundee City Council to redevelop Dundee railway station.

The Scottish National Party-run council has a policy against awarding public contracts to blacklisters.

### Short-term workers hired

**THE DEPARTMENT** for Work and Pensions (DWP) is recruiting 2,800 people on short-term contracts.

Yet the Tories slashed 3,671 permanent jobs from the DWP in June alone.

### Rents faster than prices

**PRIVATE SECTOR** tenants could afford to work a four-day week if rents had risen at the rate of inflation, new research has found.

Office for National Statistics (ONS) shows that rents have risen more than twice as fast as living costs since 1998.

### Plan for more welfare attacks

**TORY IAIN** Duncan Smith has announced a new assault on disabled people. He wants to force more sick and disabled people off their benefits.

This comes ahead of the announcement of how many people have died after being found "fit to work" by former government contractor Atos.

## What's your story?

Email with your ideas

[reports@socialistworker.co.uk](mailto:reports@socialistworker.co.uk)

## ON THE WEB

Top five hits this week on [socialistworker.co.uk](http://socialistworker.co.uk)

1 [Protesters call on National Gallery to reverse privatisation and reinstate union rep](#)

2 [What will happen if Jeremy Corbyn does win?](#)

3 [Kick the vandals out of the National Gallery](#)

4 [Corbyn-mania drives the right to despair, bluster and threats](#)

5 [Resistance follows betrayal in Greece](#)



# Determined refugees break down the borders

As Europe's governments clamp down on migrants, refugees are fighting back, writes Ken Olende

## THOUSANDS OF refugees forced open the border between Greece and Macedonia last Saturday.

Refugees who manage to get across the Mediterranean to Greece often continue north to Macedonia.

Many head for the railway station at Gevgelija, hoping to catch a train north to Serbia and then across Hungary to Germany.

Even if they get into Macedonia the journey is fraught with danger. Hungary is building a four metre high steel fence along its border to keep migrants out.

The European Union (EU) border agency recorded 107,500 people crossing into the EU during July, a three-fold increase on the same period last year.

The British media is obsessed with saying everyone is coming here.

## Number

But in fact Germany took the largest number of refugees and Austria has the highest number of refugees per head.

The Macedonian government claimed last week that 3,500 refugees were coming each day and it could not cope.

It closed its border with Greece and riot police beat arrivals back with truncheons and riot shields.

Police fired stun grenades into a

## BACK STORY

### War and poverty are driving refugees to flee their homes

- Many try to reach countries in Europe to claim refugee status
- But European governments are determined to keep them out
- Thousands of migrants forced open the border between Greece and Macedonia last Saturday
- The refugees have support from many ordinary people in Greece
- But Europe's rulers use racism to try and justify attacks on them

crowd of refugees trying to cross the border on Friday.

But the following day, some 2,000 refugees burst through the police lines. Since then the government has agreed to allow them through.

Rostom Mohamed, who had travelled from Iraq with his wife and three children, said "I want to go to Germany for work."

"I want to be safe and live like a human being."

The majority of refugees crossing Macedonia are from Syria, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, according to the NGO Medecins Sans Frontieres.

## REFUGEES BROKE through barbed wire and police to cross into Macedonia from Greece last Saturday

Ahmed Satuf, from Idlib in Syria, said, "I'm not a terrorist. We are humans. Where's the humanity? Where's the world? Everyone here, they are families."

Refugees travel through Macedonia because it is safer than going through neighbouring countries. Most southern European states hope people will pass quickly through.

Several governments are also contrasting themselves to multicultural countries such as Britain or Germany.

So the Slovak government has said it will take 200 Syrian refugees,

but only if they are Christian. A government spokesperson said, "In Slovakia, we don't have mosques."

But refugees who get to western Europe can't always avoid such bigotry. Around 1,000 people rioted for two nights last weekend in Dresden, eastern Germany, against the arrival of 250 refugees.

And the tiny minority who head for Britain could find themselves camped at Calais, where the British government is doing everything in its power to keep them out.

France's president Francois Hollande and German chancellor Angela Merkel met in Berlin on

Monday to discuss "harmonising" their migrant policy.

They are prepared to let more migrants in than the British government. But they look at the issue purely from the economic interests of their state governments.

They are also determined to strengthen Fortress Europe's external borders.

We say all refugees should be welcome here.



## On other pages...

New crisis in Greece could lead to a stronger left >>[Page 6](#)

## FIGURE IT OUT

### 107,500

Record number of migrants who entered the EU in July

### 4,400

Migrants blocked by Italy's coastguard last Saturday alone

### 7,000

Migrants reached Serbia via Macedonia last weekend

STAND UP To Racism is organising two solidarity delegations to Calais to support migrants there.

The first will take place on Saturday 5 September. The group is appealing for people to support it.

Weyman Bennett is joint national secretary of Stand Up to Racism.

He went to Calais with a delegation



**Weyman Bennett in Calais earlier this month**

earlier this month. Weyman told Socialist Worker,

"Calais shows the nature of the Tories' racist offensive."

"When I visited the so-called jungle in Calais I met human beings fleeing war and economic destitution."

"People are going to Calais to bring solidarity because we want to show that David Cameron does not speak for us."

For more details go to [standuptoracism.org.uk](http://standuptoracism.org.uk)

## Solidarity with Calais migrants

## Journey to Samos is 'four hours of fear'

by CHRIS JONES in Samos, Greece

REFUGEES ARE arriving every night on the Greek island Samos. Most are from Syria.

They're forced to pay up to £1,200 for a four-mile crossing from Turkey, so the poorest don't even get this far.

When groups arrive packed into rubber dinghies, riding dangerously low in the water, they're terrified, knackered and also exalted to have arrived alive.

Mamoud is a 19 year old student from Aleppo in Syria. He told me, "There were 43 of us in a six-metre plastic boat."

"We left Izmir in Turkey at 1am and landed on Samos four hours later—it was four hours of fear."

### Pregnant

Mamoud said the group included "families with young children, two babies and one pregnant woman".

Once on Samos some are taken to a detention centre built in 2007.

It is a series of asbestos huts and open pens surrounded by coiled barbed wire.

There are no official provisions. So many of us who live locally go down with food, water, blankets and toys for the children.

They are being abandoned. The only help they receive is from local people, who often have little themselves.

For a longer version of this article go to [socialistworker.co.uk](http://socialistworker.co.uk)

## Theresa May sends in cops to solve the 'crisis'

TORY HOME secretary Theresa May was crowing this week, claiming she had ended the "crisis" in Calais.

She said this had been done partly by sending British police to set up a joint control centre.

May bragged that the centre would "relentlessly pursue and disrupt the callous criminal gangs that facilitate and profit from the smuggling of vulnerable people, often with total disregard for their lives".

But no refugee would pay such people if they were given any other alternative.

The real callousness comes from the politicians who abandon desperate refugees.

Immigration minister James Brokenshire accompanied May on a trip to Calais.

He said he is determined to show the desperate people there that "the streets of the UK are not paved with gold".

Brokenshire was playing up to a popular right wing myth that millions of migrants are trying to get to Britain rather than



Theresa May in Calais

anywhere else because they see it is a "soft touch" for benefits.

Yet the vast majority of refugees do not choose to come to Britain.

The British government is turning a blind eye to the reality of life for migrants in the rest of Europe.

## Socialist Worker WHAT WE THINK

# WE NEED TO GET RID OF THEIR BANKRUPT SYSTEM

**T**HE PANIC that spread through financial markets at the start of this week exposed the volatility of the system (see page 3). For all the talk of "recovery" capitalism is fragile.

Many bosses hoped China's seemingly strong economy would get the system out of a crisis that erupted in 2008.

But now China is producing fewer goods. Demand for materials from other countries has fallen, pushing down commodity prices. Fewer people in China are buying luxury goods imported from other countries.

All of this hits other sections of the world economy.

Investors and speculators, who gamble huge sums of money based on the state of the economy, are panicking about how much they could lose. Their gambling can spark crises and deepen existing ones—but the problems are rooted in capitalism.

The system is based on competing bosses fighting to make the most profits.

The revolutionary Karl Marx explained that there is a tendency for the rate of profit to fall over time under capitalism. Bosses

get their profits by exploiting workers—hiring them and paying them less in wages than the value of what they produce.

But bosses are also pushed to cut labour costs with new machinery and equipment.

So over time they get a lower return on their investments.

Each boss tries to grab the whole market for themselves, leading to overproduction. So goods also begin to pile up unsold.

Bosses lay off workers to try and cushion any losses—meaning workers have less money to spend, deepening the crisis.

Crisis can't be managed out of capitalism. It is part and parcel of the way the system works.

Workers in Britain and across the world have already paid a price for the crisis that erupted in 2008. We were told that job cuts, pay freezes and attacks on pensions and services would get the economy back on its feet.

But it turns out austerity hasn't stopped the bosses' crisis.

Now we face another one. And once again our rulers will expect us to pay the price for it.

The problem isn't a lack of resources. It's that capitalism works to put ever more of those resources in the hands of the rich.

The wealth of the ten richest people in Britain alone increased by £3.25 billion last year.

The richest 85 people on the planet have the same wealth as the poorest 50 percent of people.

The Tories ridicule anyone who opposes austerity, privatisation and neoliberalism. They claim that the free market is the only way to successfully run society.

Others claim that the system can be reformed to serve the interests of ordinary people.

The truth is that capitalism only works for the rich. It will never work for the vast majority of us. Their system is bankrupt—and we need to get rid of it.

**Workers already paid a price for the bosses' crisis that erupted in 2008**

## BREAK THE BORDERS

**T**WAS wonderful to see thousands of migrants burst through the outer defences of Fortress Europe last Saturday.

The refugees gave their own answer to European Union (EU) leaders desperately putting up fences to keep them out.

The militant tactics of the refugees forced the Greek government to let large groups of them through to the border with Macedonia rather than dumping them in a camp on a Greek island.

Most who escaped into

Macedonia will continue across Serbia to Hungary, where the right wing government is laying razor wire to block them.

It said migrants are "threatening European countries with an unprecedented social, economic, cultural and security conflict".

In fact it is the EU's policy of putting up walls to "defend" Fortress Europe, not the migrants who cause "conflict".

These refugees have broken through one border. We should offer them solidarity as they push

through others to escape poverty and war.

They are traveling on foot with no food and no supplies.

They have relied on help from local people for blankets, water and food. The people who have least have been most generous.

The same governments that are targeting migrants are imposing austerity on working class people.

The refugees' resourcefulness and bravery should be an inspiration to everyone fighting back.

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## ANALYSIS

PANOS GARGANAS

## Syriza fell because it gave in to the bosses

**GREECE'S COALITION government, led by the radical left party Syriza, has collapsed because it capitulated to bosses' pressure to sign a new bailout agreement. This forced Syriza leader Alexis Tsipras to call a new election.**

He is trying to present this as a democratic initiative. In reality, Tsipras is trying to hide the fact that his government has collapsed because people oppose the measures it's pushing through.

Syriza was elected in January promising to end austerity. It has broken its main pledge—and this led to a revolt against the government by some of its own MPs.

There is also widespread opposition to the bailout agreement among workers. In the referendum on an austerity deal in July, 60 percent voted no and the backbone of that was the working class. Some 80 percent of working class people voted no. So every Syriza MP faced a very difficult situation with their constituents.

The crisis led to 25 Syriza MPs breaking away and forming a new party, Popular Unity (PU). It is now the third largest party in parliament.

This is a positive development. It is a clear breakaway to the left by people who refuse to vote for the bailout agreement and austerity. It confirms that pressure on the government comes from the left.

And it reinforces the confidence of working people to fight austerity.

Antarsya, the anti-capitalist coalition, sent out an invitation to all left groups including PU. It said we should cooperate in fighting austerity and outlined a programme on how this could be done.

The main points of that are cancelling the debt, breaking with the European Union (EU) and nationalising the banks under workers' control. We are waiting for responses.

PU is preparing a draft statement to form the political basis of the new party. It is keeping a distance from the anti-capitalist programme.

### Confrontation

PU has broken from Syriza but has not broken completely from the logic of Syriza. For instance, leading members say breaking with austerity means a confrontation with the Eurozone but not breaking with the EU.

So that's an obvious sticking point. Leading PU members also tend to see a break with the eurozone in national terms, not class terms. And they think we can rely on parliament to impose a programme against austerity, instead of looking to workers' action.

PU should take its split from Syriza to its logical conclusion and break with Syriza's strategy. Then there could be a joint election campaign with Antarsya. But if not, we can still have united actions in opposing austerity.

Going into the election, the government will try to avoid confrontation with groups of workers. And the programme for privatisations will be implemented after the election.

So the campaign against privatisation of ports will continue but won't come to a climax until after.

The election will also affect other struggles, such as the strike campaign over understaffing in hospitals.

The date of the election is expected to be declared on Friday of this week. The most likely date is 20 September, which means three weeks of campaigning.

Antarsya will hold a national meeting this Sunday. If PU responds positively to our proposal we can have a joint election campaign. If not, Antarsya will run its own campaign.

In Greece parties need to get 3 percent to elect MPs. We want to clear this hurdle so that Antarsya can enter parliament.

Syriza will be the leading party after the election. But it's doubtful whether it will get an overall majority, so it could have to seek coalition with one of the parties to the right.

We are likely to end up with a more right wing government. But class polarisation is strong. So we are also likely to see a stronger left wing opposition in the next parliament with PU, the Communist Party and, with any luck, Antarsya.

This is what we are fighting for.

Panos Garganas is editor of Workers' Solidarity, Socialist Worker's sister newspaper in Greece



# Met begin crackdown ahead of the Notting Hill Carnival

by HAMZASHARIF

**T**HE Metropolitan police has begun targeting black people in the run-up to the Notting Hill Carnival on Monday of next week.

Notting Hill is the largest street carnival in Europe celebrated on the August bank holiday.

The cops make "pre-emptive" arrests and raids every year, harassing mostly young black people.

Police arrested more than 120 people and carried out 170 search warrants last year.

They carry out racially-motivated stop and searches and deploy what they call "super recognisers" to trawl the carnival crowd.

Ruben from west London told Socialist Worker, "You realise its carnival season when you get stopped and searched by the police more often."

### Security

"They would say it is to improve security but clearly it's just racist targeting if they see you are young and black."

Authorities treat the carnival as a security and policing issue rather than a cultural celebration.

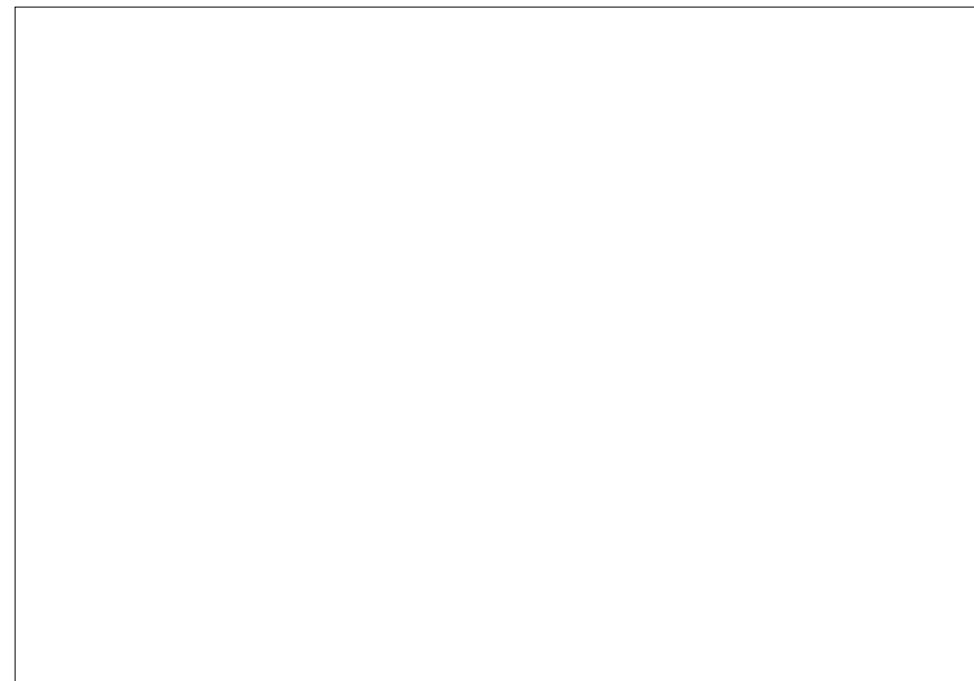
The carnival began as a community response event to the Notting Hill race riots of August and September 1958.

These were racist attacks that targeted black migrants living in west London.

High rents and property developers have priced out the local community in Notting Hill and Ladbroke Grove, the west London areas where the carnival takes place.

He told Socialist Worker, "The Flyover, our local live music venue, was closed in January.

"It's ironic that on the 23 acres of land they have no steel panyard or mas camp."



COPS CARRY out a stop and search during the Notting Hill Carnival last year (top) and dawn raids (right)

These are the places where traditionally steel bands practiced and people prepared their costumes and floats for carnival. "The Carnival Industrial Project and Ebony have both gone," said Niles.

"After 40 years there's nothing to celebrate the contribution of the African-Caribbean community to the local area.

"You won't see anything being built in the local black community after the carnival. It's like it's been completely appropriated from the people who originally made it."

The commercialising of Notting Hill Carnival has taken another turn this year—organisers are demanding that journalists and photographers reporting on it pay a

£100 fee. The London Notting Hill Carnival Enterprises Trust asks for an accreditation form to be submitted to gain access.

The NUJ union's freelance organiser John Toner said, "It is not acceptable that the media is expected to pay a fee to cover what is a genuine news event.

"We would urge all members to reject these conditions and to cover the event from public spaces."

The carnival should not be an opportunity to cash in and for the police to harass thousands of young black people.

**Got a story?**  
Email ideas to [reports@socialistworker.co.uk](mailto:reports@socialistworker.co.uk)

## FIGURE IT OUT

**120** the number of people arrested by the police in the run up to last year's Notting Hill Carnival

**170** the number of search warrants that the police used in the run up last year

**18** black people are 18 times more likely likely to be stopped and searched by the police

## Police shoot man during eviction

**POLICE SHOT and critically injured a man in Clapham, south London, last weekend as they assisted bailiffs to evict him.**

The 34 year old had not been named as Socialist Worker went to press.

Police went to the man's south London home last Saturday after housing authorities unsuccessfully tried to evict him the day before.

They say they saw a weapon.

A seven-hour siege took place before police opened fire on him outside



The scene of the seven hour siege

the address.

He was seriously injured and arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission has said it has opened an investigation into the shooting.

Annette Mackin

# Right is in a frenzy over Corbyn's successes

by JUDITH ORR

**LEFT CANDIDATE** Jeremy Corbyn has faced smears and attacks from the right as 620,000 people take part in the election of a new Labour Party leader.

Betty Boothroyd, former Labour MP and speaker of the House of Commons, joined the Labour right's refrain that Labour is doomed if Corbyn wins. She has a history of witch hunting the left during the 1980s.

Boothroyd declared, "What enterprise would allow first-time customers a say in its future in return for a one-off donation of £3?"

But the left did not introduce the new voting system. It was brought in to undercut the ability of trade unions to influence the outcome.

The right are only denouncing it now because they are worried that it may enable the left to win.

## Public

Interim leader Harriet Harman argued after Labour's defeat in May that the party must "let the public in".

Yet now there is a frenzy about the danger of "entryists" who voted for other parties in the past. So far Labour has rejected 3,000 applications.

However a senior Labour figure told the Scotland on Sunday newspaper that "at least 25,000 people" are being investigated.

Activists point out that the party should be thrilled that so many people want to get involved and that Corbyn's anti-austerity, anti-war politics has energised activists.

In Nottingham people queued for over two hours and filled the 900-seater hall. Corbyn also had to speak to an overflow meeting of 300.

Richard Buckwell said, "There were many new and younger people, and two school students on the platform. But there were also many active on the left over the past 20 years reunited and enthused by the meeting."

Over 1,000 people came to hear Corbyn speak last week in Newcastle. Another 1,000 came to a meeting in Middlesbrough.

Such meetings strike fear into the

## BACK STORY

**Jeremy Corbyn is frontrunner in the election to decide the new leader of the Labour Party**

- About 620,000 people can vote in the leadership election
- The Labour Party has about 300,000 members
- In addition to this 121,295 people have paid £3 to be supporters of the party
- Another 189,703 people are affiliated members of a trade union or socialist society

right as they panic about losing control. They face problems.

If they defy a democratic vote and attack Corbyn immediately with legal challenges and confidence votes they could cause an even deeper crisis in the party.

If they wait then Corbyn and his supporters can use the time to establish their position, and some will want to break.

The danger of this process is that those galvanised by Corbyn's campaign are drawn into a logic that sees the key issue as changing the Labour Party.

## Letter

So when six trade union general secretaries wrote a letter in Corbyn's support last week they talked about what he could do for working class people.

It's absolutely right that the unions should back Corbyn. But when it comes to resisting the Tories' assault on working class people the trade union leaders should be doing more themselves.

They have repeatedly squandered opportunities to resist allowing the Tories to run rampage.

Relying on getting Labour into office is a way of getting themselves off the hook for any responsibility for leading a fightback.

People are flocking to Corbyn meetings because they want to see someone oppose the Tories. We need to use the opportunity to build a real fightback.

## On other pages...

Back John Burgess in the Unison leadership election >>Page 17

**JEREMY CORBYN** about to address an overflow meeting in Newcastle last week

## SCOTLAND

# Scottish National Party aims to bring back primary school national testing

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

SCOTLAND'S FIRST minister Nicola Sturgeon wants to reintroduce national testing into primary schools in Scotland.

The Scottish National Party (SNP) leader, under increasing pressure over her party's record in education, made the announcement in a speech last week.

The attainment gap between pupils from richer and poorer backgrounds has got worse in Scotland under the SNP.

Sturgeon used her speech to argue her government was going to tackle it and tests were the answer, without giving full details.

The Labour Party is still licking its wounds from the electoral hiding it received in May. But it has tried to use the issue of attainment to attack the SNP.

Inequalities in education do not result from a lack of tests—the SNP is simply trying to cover the impact of its own cuts.

There are 4,000 fewer teachers. Class sizes have risen and the introduction of the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) and major changes to exams have fuelled teachers' anger. This is under an "anti-austerity" SNP government.

In further education the scale of cuts and reorganisation has also

**NICOLA STURGEON** announced plans to reintroduce national testing

had a major impact on both staff and students.

As the starting gun for next May's Scottish parliament elections is about to be fired the SNP hopes to direct attention away from its record.

## Step

One Glasgow secondary teacher and EIS teaching union member told Socialist Worker, "National testing is a backward step that teachers wouldn't welcome."

"CfE was supposed to free up teachers to teach what pupils need—it was more about continuous assessment. But it was never given the funding it needed."

In practise CfE has seen

workloads and teachers' stress go through the roof. The SNP's aspiration for "excellence" was never properly resourced and has been a bureaucratic nightmare.

This has left staff battling to keep their heads above water.

The teacher added, "Every Higher class in my school is running at the maximum size."

"It used to be 20 pupils, now 30 is the norm. One class is at 33. This increases the burden of marking on teachers, on top of everything else."

"We've also gone several years without any real wage increase."

"With schools now returned from the summer break it's time for the EIS to step up the campaign over workloads, and pay too."

**IN BRIEF****Turmoil in Turkey as election called**

A GENERAL election has been called in Turkey for 1 November. This follows close on an earlier poll in June.

Since then president Recep Tayyip Erdogan has broken the ceasefire with the Kurds and created chaos on the streets.

Over 100 people have died in the last month—not including those bombed by the Turkish airforce in northern Iraq.

Erdogan hopes these actions will win him back his parliamentary majority.

The radical Kurdish HDP party made a breakthrough in the June election.

Erdogan wants a wave of patriotism to push it below the 10 percent threshold for seats in parliament.

So far this manoeuvre isn't working. Patriotic slogans are the exception at funerals of soldiers and police. A more common slogan is, "Send your own sons". The president's sons avoided military service.

The first week of September will see big mobilisations by the peace movement.

The overwhelming majority of the population, including people who voted for Erdogan's AK Party, do not want this war.

**Chris Stephenson**

**Black teenager shot in the back**

PROTESTS BROKE out in St Louis, in the US state of Missouri, after police shot dead black teenager Mansur Ball-Bey on Wednesday of last week.

Police initially reported that they shot the 18 year old because he aimed a weapon. But an autopsy showed he was shot in the back. His family deny he was armed.

The family has initiated a separate investigation from the police's into the killing.

This shooting comes just weeks after the first anniversary of the killing of Michael Brown also in greater St Louis.

**Miners' murder case dropped**

THE ATTEMPTED murder case against South African trade unionist Makhanya Siphamandla was thrown out on the first day of his trial on Wednesday of last week.

Makhanya had been a leading Amcu union activist in last year's 80,000 strong platinum strike. He walked free with his two co-defendants Jacob Khoza and Bheki Buthelezi from Bofokeng Regional Court (see letter on page 9).

The shop stewards had been charged with attacking a member of the rival NUM union.

**Mass demonstrations in Beirut against the regime**

by ELIA EL KHAZEN in Beirut, Lebanon

**UP TO 10,000 people demonstrated on the streets of Beirut, Lebanon last Saturday.**

The Arab uprisings of 2011 have left their mark on the Lebanese people. Strong movements have organised several protests calling for the downfall of the sectarian regime. Unfortunately these were eventually co-opted by reactionary parties.

But this week has seen the beating pulse of demonstrators returned to the streets with protests called "You Stink".

They have been sparked by a waste management crisis. Piles of rubbish have grown on the streets since the authorities had no alternative arranged when a major landfill site closed in July.

The ruling class is also trying to split the privatised rubbish collection cake on sectarian and geographic lines.

The level of repression in downtown Beirut in recent days has been unmatched in its brutality and repressive nature.

A large section of the city has been privatised and gentrified under successive governments.

This has exposed the true face of the regime with its countless scandals. Lebanon's streets have been filled with rotting rubbish sporadically relocated to poorer areas to momentarily alleviate tensions in Beirut.

**Repression**

Protesters experienced repression from both the army and the police first hand. These watchdogs attempted to outdo each other as they tried to push protesters away from the main roads that feed into Beirut's main squares.

The army shot live bullets in the air and aimed teargas canisters and water cannons frantically at protesters.

Police attacked the protesters with batons, maiming several people and sending more than 75 bystanders to nearby hospitals.

Protesters stood their ground and camped out in the streets to remobilise the next day.

They sprayed walls of the once enclosed luxurious and exclusionary downtown area with slogans such as "Down with capitalism" and "Downtown Beirut belongs to the people" and "Revolution".

The next day protesters were defiant, and came in larger numbers—up to 20,000.

Many people who once felt alienated by the movement were being attracted by the struggle.

But the organisers committed the mistake of labelling many newcomers, mainly working class teenagers

**PROTESTERS OCCUPYING the centre of Beirut on the second day of demonstrations**

PICTURE: AL MANSOUR

**China chemical plant explosion kills worker**

**AN EXPLOSION and fire at a chemical warehouse in Shandong province in eastern China last Saturday killed one person and injured nine.**

China's state media said the Runxing plant stored adiponitrile, which releases poisonous gases when burned.

The blast followed huge explosions at a chemical warehouse in Tianjin on 12 August, which left at least 121 people dead. Both sites are close to residential areas.

The blasts exposed the dangers posed by chemical firms in China—but they are just the tip of the iceberg.

Sites storing hazardous chemicals in China's capital Beijing were inspected in the wake of the Tianjin disaster. Some 85 out of 124 had safety problems—nearly 70 percent.

Competing firms sacrifice safety if it means they can make more profit. And the authorities have failed to enforce safety laws, despite knowing the risks.

Industry publication Chemical Industry News warned of the dangers in 2009. It said many chemical warehouses in China were old—and estimated that many others were operating without licenses.

**A report by two government**

**Runxing chemical plant in flames**

scientists published last month said that China's chemical plants posed a risk of "grave accidents and casualties". Weku Duan and Bin He looked at around 700 pollution accidents between 1952 and 2010.

They found that leakage of materials and explosions were the main causes. They pointed out that the volatile nature of the chemicals stored could lead to "domino accidents" where "one disaster leads to another."

China is the world's largest producer and consumer of chemicals. Between 2009 and 2014 over 4,000 people were killed as a result of around 3,600 accidents involving chemicals in China according to Professor Zhao Laijun.

**Sadie Robinson**

Elia is a member of the Socialist Forum in Lebanon.

## Peterloo memorial

MARCHERS FROM Bolton walked into Manchester for a meeting last week—just as they had done in 1819, when 60,000 rallied at the earliest campaign for universal suffrage.

This year's annual commemoration of the Peterloo Massacre attracted hundreds. Actor Maxine Peake read out the famous Peterloo massacre poem by Percy Bysshe Shelley, *The Masque of Anarchy*.

The campaign has pushed the Manchester City Council to erect a permanent memorial. Unfortunately, it will not be ready in time for the Tories to see at their annual conference on the very site where a Tory magistrate ordered an attack on peaceful protesters.

**Mark Krantz**  
Manchester

## The attacks on Corbyn

WHEN THEY criticise Jeremy Corbyn for lack of credibility they really mean he is pandering to the wants, wishes and desires of the masses.

They believe that we are a bundle of irrational emotions. And do not have the dispassionate intellectual rigor of the educated movers and shakers.

One question blows that out of the water—why did the 2007–2008 economic crisis happen? A question that makes the shakers quiver as they have no answer.

**Graham Hodgin**  
West London

## FDA approves ‘female Viagra’ drug for profit

THE DRUG fibanserin, meant to improve women's sex drive, was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration last week.

Sometimes described as “female Viagra” it is actually very different. It affects the brain's chemistry like an anti-depressant and needs to be taken daily.

Flibanserin was denied approval twice before, due to concerns that it causes dizziness and nausea.

According to a famous 1999 study, 43 percent of women sometimes



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Just a thought...

## Racism to divide us

YEARS AGO I wrote a letter to Socialist Worker fretting that pro-migrant slogans might make it harder for us to get a hearing. I was wrong.

Anti-migrant racism is the most effective way to keep us divided.

We have to take on the arguments and stand in solidarity with all looking for freer, better life.

**Ben Drake**  
York

## Blame the warmongers

JOHN Appleyard referred to Buffy Sainte-Marie, a singer I greatly admire (Letters, 22 August).

However, I have always felt that the song *Universal Soldier* blames individual soldiers for wars and atrocities, rather than those who cause them.

I prefer the late Phil Ochs, *I Ain't Marching Any More*, where he blames the warmongers.

**Dave Clinch**  
Torrington

## Why forget AFN anti-fascists?

IT WAS very disappointing to read the report (Socialist Worker, 22 August) on the anti-fascist demo in Liverpool.

The Unite Against Fascism march had broad support, but what stopped the Nazis at Lime Street was the Anti-Fascist Network (AFN) mobilisation.

If the Left is to make progress then you really can't give an account of the day without saying hats off to the AFN.

**Alan Gibbons**  
Liverpool

## Attack Yvette Cooper for her politics, not her sex

THE WOMEN candidates in the Labour leadership election don't look like leadership material, according to Charles Moore, the right wing columnist in the Spectator.

He wrote that Margaret Thatcher succeeded because most Tory MPs “fancied her”.

The blatant sexism faced by Yvette Cooper and Liz Kendall has not been confined to Tory journalists.

Cooper has been accused by people in her rival candidate Andy Burnham's campaign of being influenced by her husband, the former MP Ed Balls.

As a female working in a male-dominated environment she certainly experiences sexism whether from within parliament or the media.

Sexism should be called out whenever it occurs regardless of your position or class background.

Suggesting she needed her husband's “balls” of aggressive tactics, as if a woman couldn't play dirty all on her own, is a typical misogynistic narrative that needs to stop.

While recognising the sexism Cooper experiences, I have no sympathy for her using the fact that she is female as the reason to support her.

We certainly do need more women leading in politics. Gender equality has a huge role to play in fighting for a better society.

It would be great if 50 percent of MPs were female, and that more

parties were led by women. But those changes alone won't solve gender inequality under capitalism.

Cooper touts herself as being the strongest candidate to beat the left wing candidate Jeremy Corbyn.

She has set herself up as an ideal candidate for right wing Labour members to vote for.

Looking for votes on the basis of gender suggests Cooper thinks voters are foolish enough to buy into the idea that gender matters more than politics.

But what really matters is the need for some real opposition to Tory austerity plans that hit working class women the hardest.

**Kulsoom Mall**  
Greenford

## Miners cleared of attempted murder

WE WERE arrested in February 2014 and charged with attempted murder during the platinum miners' strike of 80,000 workers. That's because we were shop stewards and leaders of the strike.

We spent 21 days in jail before being bailed. For over one and a half years we have had to report to a police station every Friday. The Bofokeng Regional Court dismissed the case against us on Wednesday 19 August.

The prosecutor admitted that he had watched a video and had seen that the

**Jacob, Makhanya and Bheki outside Bofokeng Regional Court**

police “had acted improperly.”

We always knew that this was a malicious prosecution to get rid of us as strike leaders.

We won the strike in Marikana.

And we won the case made against us.

We want to thank Socialist Worker newspaper for its support.

**Makhanya Siphamandla, Jacob Khoza and Bheki Buthelezi**  
Rustenburg, South Africa

## Corbyn grants for a revolt?

CORBYN PLANS to give grants to working class people who wish to represent the Labour Party as MPs. We can use the money system to overthrow capitalism.

**Alan Creswell-Laing**  
Manchester

GORDON Brown declared socialism is “out of date”—the same genius who claimed he had fixed capitalism's “boom-bust” cycle.

**Sasha Simic**  
London

# ROOTHERHAM ABUSE VICTIMS SPEAK OUT...

# 'WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS'

Abuse survivors and relatives from Rotherham tell **Sadie Robinson** that police and authorities are still failing children. But they're now organising to make sure future generations get real support

**A**busers are still targeting children in Rotherham a year after a damning report sent shockwaves across Britain.

Professor Alexis Jay's report estimated that at least 1,400 children suffered child sexual exploitation (CSE) in the South Yorkshire town between 1997 and 2013.

Police and other authorities claim things are different now—but those with experience of the abuse disagree.

Jessica was sexually exploited from the age of 14. She told Socialist Worker, "It's still going on. I've seen it in broad daylight."

"It won't stop just because we've had some media attention."

She contacted police just this month after one man, related to known abusers, had been approaching young girls falsely claiming to be 14 years old. She described how abusers have tried to "groom" her son to become a perpetrator too.

Jessica still avoids some places in Rotherham, such as Clifton Park and the bus station. She said they're still abuser hotspots. "But it's everywhere really," she added.

Sally Jane told Socialist Worker her 15 year old daughter was contacted by a man on Facebook last November. "He was trying to groom her," she said. Apparently he's contacted 34 other children.

"My daughter did a statement, but the police say they can't find it."

The Jay report detailed horrendous violence against children, some as young as 11.

Young girls were gang raped,

**The authorities tried everything to prevent people coming forward**

beaten and trafficked across Britain. Abusers would befriend children, flatter them and shower them with gifts. Over time they used alcohol, drugs and threats of extreme violence to control victims and facilitate abuse.

Jessica said the authorities "tried everything to prevent people coming forward".

But even when they did, police either didn't believe them, said they couldn't help, blamed the children or said they were "consenting".

Jayne Senior ran the Risky Business project, which was set up to support CSE victims and those at risk, from 1999 to 2011. She told Socialist Worker, "Young people had been identified as involved in or at risk of child prostitution.

"I hated that word—but the law reflected the idea that children were making a choice."

Jayne added that children could be more easily dismissed because they didn't always fit the dominant view of a victim.

"ChildLine adverts show children sat in a corner crying, so people donate money," she said.

"I understand that, but how many people would put their hand in their pocket when they see a nine, ten or 11 year old shouting and swearing? That frightened child is the same as the one in the adverts."

Jenny told Socialist Worker how her two daughters suffered CSE—and how the authorities failed them.

"The younger of the two was one of the worst cases in Rotherham," she said. "She

was raped and they used a broken glass bottle."

**J**ENNY APPROACHED the authorities to report the abuse. "I went to social services. But they were more concerned with blaming me than they were with the children."

Meanwhile the police didn't seem interested. "Every time she went out and wasn't in at the time she should've been, it was a matter of phoning the police," Jenny explained.

"You'd be on the phone to them for an hour and half the time they never showed up. All they thought was she's just a child running off all the time. They didn't take it seriously at all."

Sally Jane's older daughter was 13 when she suffered CSE. "I witnessed my daughter's abuse," Sally Jane told Socialist Worker. "They were forcing her to give them oral sex in a field.

**Social workers took her away the day after.**

**T**hey wouldn't let me see or speak to her for a

week. It was awful. To me, I felt she could've blamed me for her being taken away because of what I saw."

The authorities failing to deal with the abuse took its toll on Sally Jane. "I suffered badly with panic attacks and anxiety," she said. "It took years to get over that."

"People just thought I was imagining it because nothing had been done about it."

"I didn't just witness it on my own—my friend was with me. But they didn't take her statement until a year later. They didn't do ID parades until six months later."

"They told me I couldn't say anything as I was going to be used in court as a witness—only they never did. I just felt like they thought I was lying."

Sally Jane said police "either lost my evidence or destroyed it".

She added that the police said if she talked about what she'd seen her other children could be taken away. "That's what I was blackmailed with the whole time," she said.

The Jay report found that some officers treated victims of abuse with "contempt". Jessica said, "I got called all sorts. I was a bitch, his mistress, a slag, a prostitute."

"They were told they were no good," said Sally Jane. "Trouble-causers. The police said to my daughter, 'If you go back to those men you'll be classed as a little slapper'."

"She was 13 at the time. And that was the night I'd witnessed the abuse. I wouldn't trust the police as far as I could throw them."

Jenny said, "The police blamed them for running off, thought of them



Jayne Senior





Jessica was sexually exploited from the age of 14

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

as little prostitutes. They weren't a priority when you phoned up. The police couldn't be bothered."

Many media reports have focused on Asian men who abuse children. But the women wanted to make clear that the problem goes wider than this.

"Not all perpetrators are Asian," said Jessica. "I've had abusers that were white, Asian and as an adult I've been abused by a black man." She said that some cases involved women abusers too.

"Anyone can be a victim and anyone can be a perpetrator."

"In Rotherham perpetrators have included professionals, police officers and councillors."

**S**ALLY JANE added that the man targeting her daughter on Facebook wasn't Asian. "There's all races that do it," she said. And Jenny's daughter is now suffering domestic violence—at the hands of a white man.

The women think there are other reasons for the lack of action. Sally Jane said, "The problem with Rotherham is that some of the councillors were connected with abusers."

Jessica said there were such connections all over Britain and added, "It's quite scary how connected people are."

She has described in the past how police had links with her abuser—one buying steroids from him, for example.

She added that the abuse was "very organised". "The abusers aren't just involved in trafficking girls, but

all sorts of other crimes too," she said.

These links may be one reason why police refuse to act over CSE.

For all politicians' warm words, they're slashing funding for services.

The Youth Association reported last year that cuts to Rotherham's council youth services are "particularly high and well beyond the national average". The Tory government plans to slash £1 million from Rotherham's £16.3 million public health budget from January.

Sally Jane said support should be there for people of all ages, not something that ends when a child turns 16 or 18.

For Jessica, even the support that is there for older people has been hard to access.

"When I first went for therapy, there was a waiting list and I was 50-odd on the list," she said.

And she said that it took months after the Jay report was published to see any changes. "Everyone says it's a year on but it's not," she said. "It's only been these last six months that support has come from other agencies.

"When Jay came out everyone was fixated on the 1,400 figure—there was no more support."

Jayne agreed. "We had six months of continued denial," she said. "A lot of time and energy was spent trying to disprove the number rather than admitting the issue and moving it forward."

She added that CSE doesn't only affect the victim but whole families. "There's got to be a service where everybody can access some support," she said.

Despite everything the women are optimistic and are trying to organise to change things.

They have set up the Rotherham Steering Group to try and raise awareness of CSE and support those who have experienced it.

They said getting together helped them feel less isolated and creating their own support network had transformed them.

"We're living proof that when the right support gets put in place, it makes a difference," said Jessica. "And we seem to be getting listened to. I think the council and police know they've got a lot of people watching them."

Sally Jane said, "You can't change the past. But we can make things better for future generations."

Join the Unite Against Fascism protest against fascists Britain First who want to use the abuse scandal to whip up racism. Sat 5 Sep, assemble 12.30pm, All Saints Square



## 'Police saw girls like me as scum'

**S**ARAH Wilson was sexually exploited by men in Rotherham from the age of 11. "My mum reported me missing countless times but the police barely batted an eyelid," she said. "In their opinion, we'd agreed to this."

Sarah recalled one officer referring to her as "a nasty young woman".

She called the police when she was 14 to report a rape but the police officer she spoke to "just laughed".

Sarah's abusers threatened her and her family if she didn't continue to see them. So Sarah regularly went missing with them.

Her mum Maggie said, "Every time I phoned the police, sick with worry and scared this would be the time she wouldn't come home at all."

"The sigh was always audible on the other end of the phone. The officers usually told me to give them a call when Sarah returned, rarely even pretending that they were looking for her."

Sarah has written a book about her experiences.

She described how police saw her in cars with those abusing her. "I often saw them laughing and joking with my abusers," she wrote.

"A couple of times I even caught them shaking Jamal's hand before we drove off."

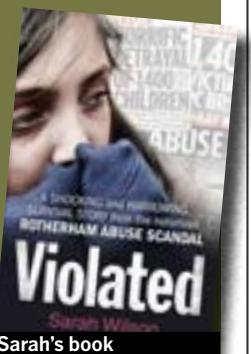
"For many years, a large number of officers within South Yorkshire Police saw girls like me as scum."

The men who abused Sarah were Asian and much of the mainstream media has focused on this.

But Sarah said that CSE "isn't about race".

"It really annoyed me when the idiots from the English Defence League turned up," she wrote. "They were just jumping on the bandwagon to try to make excuses for their pathetic racism."

Sarah now works to raise awareness of CSE. "I've realised I don't have to be a victim forever," she said. "I'm also a survivor, and I can make a difference."



Sarah's book

**WHAT WE STAND FOR**

**These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.**

**INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION**

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

**REVOLUTION NOT REFORM**

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

**THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD**

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

**INTERNATIONALISM**

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

**THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY**

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to [www.swp.org.uk](http://www.swp.org.uk) or phone 020 7819 1170 for more information

**{ SOCIALIST WORKER }****PUBLIC MEETINGS****ESSEX****Can Jeremy Corbyn reclaim the Labour Party?**

Thu 24 Sep, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Rainsford Rd,  
Chelmsford, CM1 2QL

**{ SOCIALIST WORKER }****BRANCH MEETINGS****WEEKLY****Meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.****ABERDEEN****State and Revolution**

Thu 3 Sep, 6pm,  
The Snug, Ma Cameron's,  
6-8 Little Belmont St,  
AB10 1JG

**BARNSLEY****The roots of terrorism**

Thu 3 Sep, 6.30pm,  
YMCA, Blucher St,  
S70 1AP

**BIRMINGHAM: CITY CENTRE****Tell me why I don't like Mondays—Marxism and alienation**

Wed 2 Sep, 7pm,  
Birmingham LGBT Centre,  
38/40 Holloway Circus,  
B1 1EQ

**BOLTON****Them and us—class struggle in the early 20th century**

Wed 2 Sep, 6.30pm,  
Bolton Socialist Club,  
16 Wood St (off  
Bradshawgate),  
BL1 1DY

**BRADFORD****In or out? What should socialists say about the EU referendum?**

Wed 2 Sep, 7pm,  
Equity Centre,  
Perkin House,  
82 Grattan Rd,  
BD1 2LU

**BRIGHTON****How we beat anti-union laws in the past**

Wed 2 Sep, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Ship St,  
BN1 1AF

**BRISTOL: NORTH****Land, labour and nature—Marxism and ecology**

Thu 3 Sep, 7.30pm,  
The Canteen, 5th Floor,  
Hamilton House,  
80 Stokes Croft,  
BS1 3QY

**BRISTOL: SOUTH****Nuclear power—who needs it?**

Wed 2 Sep, 7.30pm,  
YHA, 14 Narrow Quay,  
BS1 4QA

**CARDIFF****Why we say fair play for Palestine**

Wed 2 Sep, 7.30pm,  
Cathays Community Centre,  
Cathays Terrace,  
CF24 4HX

**CHELMSFORD****State and Revolution**

Thu 17 Sep, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Rainsford Rd,  
CM1 2QL

**CHESTERFIELD****Marxism and feminism**

Thu 3 Sep, 7.30pm,  
Chesterfield Library (enter  
via Cafe Brower),  
New Beetwell St,  
S40 1QL

**COLCHESTER****How can Palestine be free?**

Tue 1 Sep, 7.30pm,  
The Odd One Out,  
28 Mersea Rd,  
CO2 7ET

**COVENTRY****The crisis in Calais—why socialists oppose border controls**

Wed 2 Sep, 7.30pm,  
West Indian Centre,  
159 Spon St,  
CV1 3BB

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Underground),  
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Thu 3 Sep, 7.30pm,  
Govanhill Baths,  
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Wed 2 Sep, 6.30pm,  
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Reformed Church,  
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17-19 Wallgate (opposite  
Wigan Post Office),  
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WV1 1ST

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Sea Horse Hotel,  
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**MOVEMENT EVENTS**

# NWA biopic tries to ‘keep it real’—but bottles the reality

New film *Straight Outta Compton* captures a US city about to explode—but shies away from exploring Gangsta Rap’s contradictions, writes **Yuri Prasad**

**FOUR YEARS** before one of the biggest riots in US history, hip hop group Niggaz Wit' Attitude (NWA) knew that Los Angeles was ready to explode.

And they knew that Compton, one of its poorest and blackest suburbs, would be at the heart of it.

NWA's 1988 album *Straight Outta Compton* captured the simmering rage at police harassment so accurately that everyone who heard it knew it.

The city finally blew in 1992 after four police officers, who had been videoed beating black motorist Rodney King, were acquitted of using unnecessary force.

Fifty three people were killed in the six-day uprising, over two thousand injured and \$1 billion worth of damage was done.

It took 4,500 US National Guard troops to finally put it down.

## Echo

Director F Gary Gray's new biopic *Straight Outta Compton* carries at least an echo of the times.

It aims to tell the story of Eazy-E (Jason Mitchell), Ice Cube (O'Shea Jackson Jr) and Dr Dre (Corey Hawkins)—the core of NWA.

Gray pulls no punches when it comes to the cops. In the opening minutes there's a drugs raid involving a police armoured vehicle smashing through a wooden shack, crushing all in its path.

But just like the group and their music, the film carries a contradiction at its core.

Gangsta Rap, as NWA's genre became known, was about gritty realism and the pictures it painted were not pretty.

They're stories of drug dealing and abuse mixed with those of



COREY HAWKINS as Dr Dre

PICTURE: UPI/UNIVERSAL MEDIA

prostitution and prisons. Hatred of the police is entwined with hatred of women and homosexuality.

At its best Gangsta Rap celebrated the defiance of the ghetto—resistance to the cops, poor people surviving against the odds, and creativity in the face of adversity.

But at its worst, it glorified the vilest side of ghetto life—the way people can turn on each other.

Women were routinely described as “bitches” and “hoes” and pimping,

raping and abusing them were acts to be celebrated.

The slaying of any rap or gang rival with automatic weapons was perhaps the second most popular theme.

How does the *Straight Outta Compton* film present the bad side of the contradiction?

Well, naked women gratuitously illustrate so many scenes it's not worth counting.

But they are juxtaposed to saintly mothers and “real” girlfriends.

However, when it comes to the most misogynistic lyrics and Dr Dre's real-life acts of violence against women, suddenly Gray turns shy.

It seems he just can't tell us the unpalatable truth. And, for a movie that is supposed to be “keeping it real”, that really sucks.

*Straight Outta Compton*  
Universal Pictures  
Directed by F Gary Gray  
Out on general release

## Making art more than just a passive spectator sport

### EXHIBITION

#### CARSTEN HOLLER: DECISION

Hayward Gallery,  
Southbank Centre,  
London SE1 8XX.  
Adults £15 and  
concessions £11.  
Until 7 September

**THIS EXHIBITION** brings together a range of artist Carsten Holler's work.

His work breaks down the barriers between the art and the “consumer”.

Human interaction has

always been Holler's main concern.

This isn't just about interacting with paintings or sculptures, but making them interact with their whole environments.

The range of work is impressive. It includes large installations built on site to short films, as well as experiments with sculptures and light.

The Isometric Slides—transparent tubes built at the back of the gallery—are one of the many installations on site.

Visitors are encouraged to slide down them—and watch others do it. Even observing Holler's art isn't passiv.

Then with the Two Flying machines, people are strapped into paragliders attached to a carousel.

The point here is partly to make people think about how we look at London.

You may not enjoy every exhibit—but it's an experiment worth taking part in.



The Isometric Slides

### EVENT

#### RIO + FILM FESTIVAL

Barbican Centre,  
London EC2Y 8DS.  
barbican.org.uk  
From 24 to 27 September

THE FULL programme has now been announced for the Rio + Film Festival.

The season will include 11 screenings showcasing Brazilian cinema. Films include the

#### City of God

powerful *City of God*, based on people's lives in the “favelas”—slums—of Rio de Janeiro.

### BOOK

#### SONGS OF THE FACTORY: POP MUSIC, CULTURE AND RESISTANCE

Marek Korczynski  
ILR Press  
£14.99  
Out now

MAREK Korczynski's *Song's of the Factory* looks at the impact of popular music on working class culture on the factory floor.

He argues that music both helps workers do the work quicker—but is also an expression of resistance to the bosses.

### TOP 5 BOOKS

Bestsellers at Bookmarks, the socialist Bookshop

1	<b>Them and Us—fighting the class war 1910-1939</b> John Newsinger
2	<b>Immigration—the myths spread to divide us</b> Charlie Kimber
3	<b>The Revolutionary Ideas of Karl Marx</b> Alex Callinicos
4	<b>Fascism—what it is and how to fight it</b> Leon Trotsky
5	<b>This Changes Everything</b> Naomi Klein

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London WC1B 3QE



**A**LL black people suffer racism. So it can seem common sense that all black people have a shared interest in fighting it and must lead that struggle.

Variations on this idea have come to be known as black nationalism.

Here the term black is used in its political sense, to describe everyone who suffers racism because of their perceived skin colour.

Many anti-racists use the term in this way. It's also common to hear activists talk about black and Asian people.

Alongside "common sense" black nationalism there has been a revival of more organised forms that try to weld a political framework onto this sentiment.

For them, the ideas of "white privilege" best explain racism.

Privilege theory says that all whites benefit from a racist society because they receive "unearned advantages".

For example, because black people face higher rates of unemployment than whites, white workers are said to gain.

The practical conclusion is that only black people can truly fight racism, and that the best that whites can do is own up to their ill-gotten gains.

Socialists don't believe that white workers benefit from racism. Instead, we insist that the working class as a whole loses out when it is divided.

That's why we battle under the banner of "Black and white unite and fight".

That crucial difference doesn't mean that socialists and nationalists cannot unite—quite the opposite.

Socialists fight for maximum unity in the fight against racism, and have always worked alongside people with very different ideas.

Supporters of black nationalist ideas often accuse socialists of sidelining race in their determination to concentrate on class.

But any socialist who doesn't join the fight against racism allows workers to be divided and so undermines any chance of advancing workers' interests.

Part of the attraction of black nationalism is that it appears radical, revolutionary even.

The demand for "black power" seems to directly challenge a world where most of those with power are white.

In fact, black nationalist ideas span a wide spectrum.

They take in some black Labour MPs who have a stake in the system, but also community activists.

They also include groups such as the Nation of Islam, which wants blacks and whites to separate.

In practice most such nationalists look to reform capitalism,



Health service workers on strike last year

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

# BLACK AND WHITE WIN BY UNITY

It is 'common sense' that black people should organise separately to fight racism. But a socialist strategy of unity is more effective at winning change, argues Yuri Prasad

hoping for a capitalism without racism.

Even those groups that demand revolution find their strategies for achieving it cannot overturn the system.

All forms of black nationalism are weaker in Britain than in the US, for good reasons.

First, Britain is far more racially integrated. This can be seen in workplaces, housing, schools and personal relationships.

A glance at groups of young

people in inner-cities shows you that most contain African-Caribbean, white, Asian, Turkish people and so on.

That mix makes it difficult to insist semi-spontaneous mass events, such as those that characterised the Black Lives Matter campaign in Britain, must be "black-led".

Organisers who won't allow them to be multicultural, won't get large numbers of young people to attend.

After the killing of Mark

**We battle under the banner of 'Black and white unite and fight'**

Tory Sajid Javid

Duggan in Tottenham, north London, in 2011 there were calls for a black-led movement.

But it would have been hard to exclude Mark's white mother and other relatives.

Second, compared to the US, Britain has a relatively strong radical left. This has been able to prove in practice its strategy of black and white unity.

The two factors mean the space available to hardline black nationalist groups is small.

Marxists have also been able to point to theoretical weaknesses in the nationalist tradition.

Oppressions such as racism shape and distort people's lives. They restrict us from an early age and shape us in ways that are both conscious and unconscious.

The experience of oppression leads many people to question the world and to resist. It is why many people become radical.

Black nationalists argue only those who experience oppression truly understand it. But what does this mean?

Presumably, at a minimum, they mean that all black people share notions of what racism is, where it comes from, and how to fight it.

But oppression does not breed such a single response.

It is true that all black people in Britain face racism.

But the nature of the prejudice they face, how they understand it and what they propose to do about it varies.

And, because there is no single response to oppression, the starting point of the nationalist response to racism is flawed.

**O**NE OF the key reasons for the variance is that black people are divided by class.

For example, the life of Asian Tory business secretary Sajid Javid has doubtless been affected by racism.

He knows the percentage of people from ethnic minorities on low incomes is double that of whites.

But his position in society, and his yearly pay of £134,565, means he is committed to the status quo.

If the movement against racism must be black-led, are we saying that any black person is better than any white person at fighting racism?

Would Javid be a better leader than the white Carole Duggan, the campaigning aunt of Mark who police killed in Tottenham?

But it is not about looking for a white or black leader.

Socialists argue that black and white should work together because it is the best way to fight against racism and all oppression.

People from oppressed minorities have taken leading roles in political movements again and again.

Black tailor William Cuffay, for example, came to lead

the largely white Chartists in London in the 1840s.

Restricting the leadership of movements to radical black activists isn't a guarantee of success.

Many black-led movements against racism have seen the most socially advantaged layer end up in charge while the black working class is largely excluded.

**S**OIALISTS ARE in favour of an anti-racist movement with black people at its core and in its leadership.

This isn't because we think that only black people truly understand racism. It's because we want our movement to look like the society that we want to create.

And we want people to gain confidence from seeing and hearing black working class leaders.

The second Marxist challenge to black nationalism is strategic.

Those nationalists who do notice class see it as merely one among many forms of potential disadvantage.

When socialists see class they see the potential power of workers to transform the world.

In any serious battle against the system we must expect the full force of the police, courts, and media to be used against us.

Think of the state's response to 2011 riots, and ask, what do we hit back with?

Our answer is that the same state that oppresses black people also pushes austerity and exploitation.

Millions of working people, black and white, are suffering from poverty pay, miserable housing and decimated benefits—and they are angry.

Socialists want to spread the struggle from young people on the streets to other activists and, ultimately, to the workplaces.

United working class power is the only way to deal a sustained blow to the system.

But if you're a black nationalist that road is closed to you because it involves a multiracial rather than an exclusively black response.

That weakness leads to defeat, which in turn leads many towards dead-end strategies.

The choices are limited.

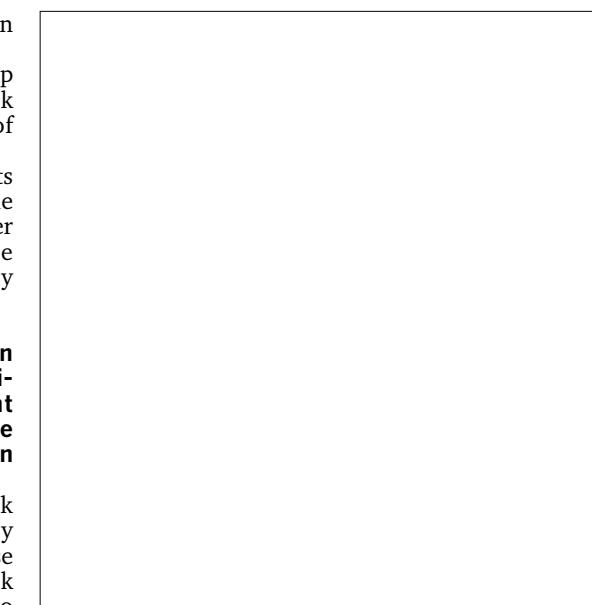
For reformists, the struggle is to put more black faces in "power".

For separatists, the key is to

## READ MORE

● **Say it Loud!: Marxism and the Fight Against Racism**  
edited by Brian Richardson  
£9.99

● **Racism, Class and the Racialized Outsider**  
by Satnam Virdee  
£26.99



PICTURE: KELVIN WILLIAMS

A BLACK Lives Matter protest in Ferguson, Missouri (top). Black and white unite against racism in Margate (above)

move away from "white society". For adventurists, the aim is for groups to try and capture the excitement of riots.

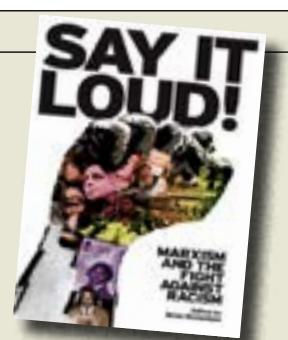
The system can easily accommodate all of these challenges—and so racism remains.

For revolutionary socialists, class is the only way to unlock the problem. Only the power of a united working class can beat racism and the system that produces it.

Making this a reality involves a fight against prejudice among white workers, proving to them that unity is in their interests.

In doing so, it is vital that socialists give no ground to chauvinistic ideas.

And, it also involves winning working class black people to the idea that they are part of a powerful force that can change the world.



Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop. Phone 020 7637 1848 or go to [bookmarksbookshop.co.uk](http://bookmarksbookshop.co.uk)



# Racism is at the heart of football in Israel

Israel's football team is mired in the country's racist politics. People are right to call a boycott of matches in Wales, writes Nick Clark

PALESTINIAN solidarity activists plan to protest as the Welsh and Israeli national football teams play in Cardiff next Sunday.

Protest organisers Red Card Israeli Racism want football fans to boycott games with Israel. And they want the international football association Fifa to suspend the Israeli association.

Outrage at Israel has grown massively since the murderous assault on Gaza last year. With it comes a growing movement for solidarity with the Palestinians.

But what has football got to do with this?

Racism is endemic in Israeli football—particularly towards Palestinians, Arabs and Muslims.

Nowhere is this more apparent than at Beitar Jerusalem, one of the top teams in Israel's Premier League.

Beitar has always been associated with the Israeli right. A favourite chant of supporters is "Death to Arabs".

### Torched

When Beitar signed two Muslim players from Chechnya in 2013, members of Beitar's "ultras" group La Familia torched the club's offices.

And when one of those players scored his first goal, fans staged a mass walkout.

The club's owners and various Israeli politicians try to distance themselves from this racism.

But Beitar has never signed an Arab player—a fact that their coach Guy Levi tried to justify in April because "it would create unnecessary tensions".

And the racism goes much further than just the fans—it's part of the institution.

The Israeli FA does next to nothing to stop racism at

'Beitar—pure forever' banner opposes Muslim players

### BACK STORY

- Israel often blocks the Palestinian football team from playing by refusing to let players travel abroad

- It promised to relax restrictions after Palestinians attempted to have Israel banned from Fifa earlier this year

- Just hours later Palestinian player Sameh Maraabah was detained at a border crossing on his way to an international game

- Gazan player Mahmoud Sarsak was detained without charge in the West Bank in 2009. He was released in July 2012 after a hunger strike

Bank shot two teenage Palestinian footballers in the feet as they walked home from training. The soldiers then set dogs on the teenagers before beating them.

In 2013 the Israeli FA sent a letter to Fifa demanding that "The Palestine Football Association must operate through the formal channels of the state of Israel."

This is telling. The Israeli state is founded on the oppression of Palestinians.

### Demolished

Many Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem have their homes demolished while the Israeli government allows the construction of Israeli settlements.

And Palestinians living inside Israel are denied the same rights as Jewish citizens.

So the basis for the racism in Israeli football lies at the heart of Israeli society.

But Israel wants to use football and other areas of culture to convince people that it is a state like any other.

Protests such as the one organised in Cardiff can help expose those lies.

In 1970 activists managed to stop the South African cricket team from touring England after a series of protests that drew attention to the country's racist apartheid regime.

Perhaps protests aimed at Israeli football can do the same today.

For info on how you can join to protest go to [palestinecampaign.org/events/cardiffally](http://palestinecampaign.org/events/cardiffally) and [rcir.org.uk](http://rcir.org.uk)

**Soldiers in the West Bank shot two Palestinian footballers in the feet**



MANCHESTER SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 2015 MANCHESTER SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 2015 MANCHESTER



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TO WORKERS' RIGHTS

**NO**  
TO AUSTERITY

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MANCHESTER SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 2015

MANCHESTER SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 2015 MANCHESTER

12.00 NOON

Assemble Oxford Road from All Saints Park southwards

1.00 PM

Opening rally

1.30 PM

March through the city on a route that circles the Conference Centre, ending at Deansgate/Whitworth Street for coach pick-ups and dispersal

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The People's Assembly and friends from supporting organisations and institutions will host a series of events throughout the week.

Topics will include—trade unions, welfare, racism, housing, Islamophobia, war, education, climate, media, TTIP, transport, NHS, economy, Scotland and Europe.

These meetings will run alongside a series of direct actions and protests all over Manchester and around the Tory party conference.

Evenings will see a full spectrum of entertainment including huge gigs featuring international artists, "Laugh them out of town" comedy nights, spoken word and other performances.

THEPEOPLESASSEMBLY.ORG.UK



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# 'The Tories aim to smash us—so let's take them on'

**John Burgess**, standing for leader of the public sector union Unison, spoke to Raymie Kiernan about how the vote could galvanise resistance to the Tories

**WORKERS HAVE** suffered five years of cuts, privatisation and other attacks. Yet trade union leaders have not launched the kind of resistance needed to match the Tory assault.

Their strategy to elect a Labour government failed—and would never have been enough anyway.

Now an election for general secretary of Britain's biggest public sector union, Unison, is looming. And it is an opportunity to back a candidate who will help lead industrial struggle against the Tories.

John Burgess, branch secretary of Barnet Unison in north London, is standing.

He spoke to Socialist Worker in a personal capacity about the need for a union that fights.

"Unison faces the biggest challenge it's ever faced," he said. "The Tories want to finish off public services and stop unions from opposing them. Doing nothing is not an option."

"The future of the trade union movement will be decided by whether or not we energise reps and develop more reps filled with confidence to fight back. We need to make the Tories worried."

John said the Tories' Trade Union Bill is "a back-handed compliment". He explained, "The trade union movement is the only credible opposition to what they are doing."

## Genuine

"We have to construct a genuine industrial response. If we have to act outside the law, then we have to act outside the law."

"Otherwise we'll fight with one hand tied behind our back."

Many workers heavily criticised the Unison leadership in the last year for cobbling together a rotten deal



JOHN BURGESS and other workers march to support striking Glasgow caseworkers at this year's Unison conference

PICTURE: DUNCAN BROWN

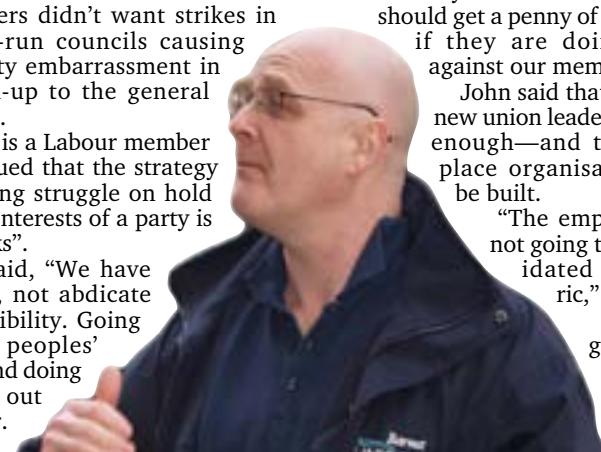
in a local government pay dispute in England and Wales.

Leaders didn't want strikes in Labour-run councils causing the party embarrassment in the run-up to the general election.

John is a Labour member but argued that the strategy of putting struggle on hold for the interests of a party is "bollocks".

He said, "We have to lead, not abdicate responsibility. Going behind peoples' backs and doing deals is out of order.

"I'm



John Burgess—a candidate who wants to take on the Tories

there for our members first, not the Labour Party. I don't see why anyone

should get a penny of our money if they are doing things against our members."

John said that electing a new union leadership is not enough—and that workplace organisation must be built.

"The employers are not going to be intimidated by rhetoric," he said.

"You've got to do the work. We have to give people

confidence and be able to deliver action.

"The union's lifeblood are the reps and members, and we need to put control of resources back into their hands. Without them we'll do nothing."

"This is an important election. We have the opportunity to change the way that one of the largest trade unions operates."

"The government's aim is to extinguish the union movement and public services. We need every worker, every rep to take them on."

## On other pages...

Tube workers gear up for strikes in London >> Page 20

## Grab this chance to create a stronger, united left

**TWO candidates** from Unison's leadership are standing for general secretary—current post holder Dave Prentis and local government officer Heather Wakefield.

Both are tainted by the sellout of the local government pay dispute and there's a big opportunity for a left challenge.

Karen Reissmann, Unison national and health service group executive (SGE) member, told Socialist Worker why

health workers should back John.

"The Tories are determined to destroy our health service," she said.

"I am supporting John because he's a principled leader."

"He will not leave health workers behind when we fight over pay, unsocial hours, stress or NHS services."

Roger Hutt is a Unison steward at Care UK in Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

Unison members there struck for 90 days

last year against NHS privatisation. Roger is also backing John for general secretary.

Roger told Socialist Worker, "John is unshakeable in his pursuit of what he believes in."

### Agenda

"For me he is what this union is crying out for—someone who will put the interests of members before the union's political agenda."

Many on the left in the union back John

and want to see a single left candidate.

After two hustings to agree on one, sadly previous general secretary candidate Roger Bannister has insisted he will stand.

This is despite his supporters being in a minority at both left hustings this year.

Jon Woods is Unison local government SGE member for the South East.

He told Socialist Worker, "John is the best candidate to unite the left and go beyond that to

bring in all those who are willing to fight.

"Roger's approach has been to say 'Back me or I'll stand anyway'. You can't build a united left on the basis of ultimatums."

"John's campaign can help us rebuild a united left in the union and take the struggle forward."

"He can lead a fight, link with other workers in struggle and not just talk the talk but put it into practice."

Workers spoke to Socialist Worker in a personal capacity

## John does not give up or give in to bosses

I'VE worked alongside John for the last six years as Barnet Unison chair.

It's important that we have a leader who, like John, has recent experience of organising and encouraging a sustained fightback.

He enjoys the confidence of our branch because we know he supports us all the way.

The fight against privatisation is not over in our branch and has been going on in its recent form for seven years.

John could have chosen a personally easier option in that time and packed up and moved on.

He has not done so. I have yet to see him give up or give in.

**Helen Davies, Barnet Unison chair and Unison NEC London region (pc)**



Helen Davies

## What you can do to support John Burgess

THE election for Unison general secretary will take place in November and December.

To raise support and nominate John at union meetings, they must take place between 2 September and 9 October.

Go to the blog now, download the nomination letter and get it onto the agenda of your next meeting.

To be on the ballot paper candidates must receive a nomination from the national executive, or two national service group executives, or two regional councils, or at least 25 branches.

Regional planning meetings are being organised to support John's campaign.

More information johnburgess4gensec.blogspot.co.uk

## IN BRIEF

### Organising to stand up to Ukip racists

ANTI-RACISTS ARE preparing to protest at Ukip's annual conference in Doncaster, South Yorkshire, next month.

The racist party is set to meet in the town from 24 to 26 September.

The local Stand Up to Ukip group was set to meet on Thursday of this week to plan its response. Some activists are proposing to hold an "unwelcoming committee" at the train station to greet Ukip delegates.

●standuptoukip.org

### Protesters to target Sotheby's auction

THE NEXT protest demanding the reinstatement of the Sotheby's 2 has been called for Monday 7 September during Sotheby's car auction.

The auction will be held at Battersea Evolution in Battersea Park, London SW11 4NJ. Watch the United Voices of the World on Facebook for more details.

### Demo called to stop threat of eviction

ACTIVISTS IN Lambeth, south London, were set to protest on Friday of this week.

The Guinness Housing Association is taking tenant Marian to court in an attempt to get possession of her flat.

It wants to demolish the block of flats she lives in.

Marian lives with her two children aged 5 and 9.

●The protest was set to take place from 1.30pm at Lambeth County Court.

### Workers prepare for a nuclear strike

SOME 400 GMB union members who work as health physics monitors at Sellafield nuclear power plant were set to strike from Tuesday to Friday of this week.

Bosses are trying to push through attacks on pay by regrading workers. Workers at the plant also struck in July.

### Luggage scanners walk off the job

SECURITY scanner operators at Stansted Airport struck on Sunday of last week.

The GMB union members are fighting a derisory 1.5 percent pay offer from private firm Mitie.

More action is planned for the August bank holiday if no agreement is reached in talks this week.

### More walkouts at Indesit UK Ltd

OVER 200 Unite union drivers and warehouse staff at Indesit UK Ltd plan three days of strikes over pay. They also struck on Friday of last week.

They have called a further 48-hour strike on Thursday of this week and 24 hours on Tuesday of next week.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT



ALAN BROWN'S supporters protest outside his reinstatement hearing

PICTURE: PAULA PETERS

## Bromley council faces privatisation battle

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

BROMLEY council workers plan to launch a wave of strikes against privatisation this week.

The south London council is run by the Tories. They are preparing to privatisate adult services and libraries over the next two months.

But workers in the Unite union are gearing up to fight back.

Adult services staff were set to walk out for two days on Thursday of this week.

Library workers were planning to begin a five-day strike from Tuesday of next week.

The Tories' privatisation programme has already seen the local parks' service hived off to private firm the Landscape Group.

They immediately



announced redundancies—and got public money to fund axing the jobs.

The council is also planning to hand over the learning disability service based at the Astley day care centre to private company Certitude on 1 October.

Council workers held stalls on Bromley High Street last Saturday to ask residents to sign up for the call for

a referendum. Unite is demanding the referendum so that residents, service users, carers and families have a say when it comes to the future of the service.

The attacks on local services has coincided with attacks on trade unionists that represent council workers in the borough.

Branch officials have had their facility time cut at the council and Unite rep Alan Brown has been suspended.

Alan had a preliminary hearing on Monday of this week where around 20 supporters gathered outside on a solidarity demonstration.

■ SOME 100 refuse collectors working for Veolia in Bromley have also voted 85 percent in favour of striking on Thursday and Friday of next week over pay.

## EDUCATION

### Protests called over cuts

CAMPAIGNERS WERE set to take part in a national day of action against further education cuts on Wednesday of this week.

The government imposed a 24 percent cut to adult education funding earlier this year.

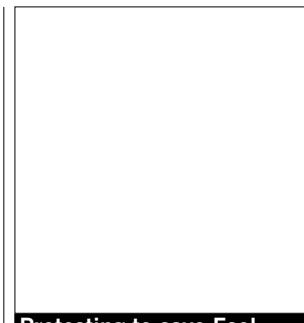
The cuts hit students learning English for Speakers of Other Languages (Esol) particularly hard.

At the end of July the Tories announced a further cut of 3.9 percent.

They removed all funding for Esol classes for students receiving Job Seekers Allowance with immediate effect.

This will slash provision for vulnerable students and lead to cuts and job losses in colleges.

One teacher had £34,000 slashed from her Esol budget with only two weeks' notice. Many students need



the English classes to access jobs, communicate with their children and access health services.

The day of action was called by Action for Esol.

**Sadie Robinson**

● Action for ESOL supports the 38 degrees petition opposing these cuts. Sign it here bit.ly/1fB8CZA. Go to actionforesol.org for more information about the campaign.

## UNISON UNION

### Max Watson to appeal

UNION REP Max Watson will appeal against his compulsory redundancy on Thursday of this week.

Max is branch secretary of the Unison union at London Metropolitan University.

He is the only worker in his faculty facing compulsory redundancy.

The union believes bosses are deliberately targeting Max because he has led a series of struggles against cuts.

His supporters plan to protest on the day.

● Defend Max Watson—Support Trade Union Activists: Thursday 27 August, 12 noon to 2pm, outside the Rocket Complex, London Metropolitan University, 166-220 Holloway Road, London N7 8DB.

## ANTI-FASCISM

### Fascists are outnumbered

SOME 200 anti-fascists saw off around 40 Nazis from the National Front, North West Infidels and Combat 18 in Manchester last Saturday.

The fascists had hoped to protest in the city but a counter-protest was called by Unite Against Fascism (UAF) to oppose them.

Speakers from the Muslim Association of Britain and Disabled People Against the Cuts were among those who addressed the UAF rally.

A few Nazis tried to break cover from a nearby pub but were unable to push their way into Piccadilly Gardens.

Fascists, including one dressed in a Ku Klux Klan costume, held flags and threw bananas towards black and Asian

## Nazi sieg heils

members of the rally.

But they were surrounded by anti-fascists and heckled and booed before double lines of police escorted them onto a hire bus and they were driven out of town.

## CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS

### DVLA staff call strikes for bank holiday in pay row

WORKERS AT the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) at Swansea contact centre have announced plans to strike on the August bank holiday weekend.

The contact centre employs 900 staff, the majority of which are members of the PCS union.

They are furious at DVLA bosses' plans to slash Saturday working premium payment to half of its current rate from Tuesday of next

week for existing DVLA workers.

They have already refused to pay it to any new starters in the contact centre since August last year.

Bosses claim that Wales is a "low wage economy" and say there is no need to pay premium rates of pay to their workers.

The DVLA walkout was set to begin from Friday of this week until Tuesday of next week.

## OFFSHORE WORKERS

### 'Strong support' for action

AN INDICATIVE ballot of offshore helicopter pilots has shown "strong support" for strikes over the terms of redundancy deals, said the British Airline Pilots Association (Balpa).

It comes after firms announced they are set to axe up to 200 jobs.

Balpa said it wanted the companies to "improve voluntary redundancy arrangements to try and prevent as many compulsory job losses as possible". A union national executive meeting early next month will consider moving to a formal strike ballot.

## OIL

THE UNITE union plans to ballot offshore contractors for strikes in an ongoing dispute over changes to working conditions.

The union said talks over pay and rota

changes with the Offshore Contractors Association (OCA) had broken down.

Unite has said it is now preparing an industrial action ballot for members working within the OCA.

## CONSTRUCTION

### Migrants paid less on site

CONSTRUCTION unions GMB, Unite and UCATT are demanding construction consortium Sita Semcorp pay migrant workers nationally agreed rates.

Representatives from the three unions visited the energy-from-waste plant at Wilton on Teesside. They said they found "exploitative

practices" with bosses paying less than half the national agreement in most cases.

Unity between migrants and workers from local areas is key to beating the bosses.

Sticking to the national agreement should mean giving migrant workers a pay rise—not kicking them out of the job.

## FIRE SERVICE

# Rolling actions from Essex fire controllers

by ANNETTE MACKIN and STEVE COLLINS

**FIREFIGHTERS AND control room staff in Essex struck together as part of a rolling programme of strikes on Monday of this week.**

They are fighting cuts to the fire service and unworkable shift patterns.

Monday's walkout lasted from 9am to 6pm. The strike followed joint walkouts by firefighters and control staff on Wednesday and Friday of last week.

Fire Brigades' Union Essex brigade secretary Alan Chinn-Shaw said the action is hitting bosses hard.

"We've had loads of public support, which has been great," he told Socialist Worker. "It's been going really well, and is having a financial impact on the service."

A control striker said, "We have received outstanding support from our firefighters who have expressed solidarity at the picket line and who themselves face savage cuts."

Firefighters are facing planned cuts to the fire service which could see a quarter of frontline jobs slashed.

Bosses are trying to reshape the fire service with the misleading argument that nationally fire deaths have



ESSEX CONTROL staff picket at Kelvedon on Monday

PICTURE: JON WOOLLARD

declined, and fires in dwellings are at a low.

But this is not the case for some county brigades. In Essex fire deaths have not gone down, and dwelling fires have increased.

"Their proposals are irrelevant for the people who call on us," said Alan.

Over the past decade the number of full time firefighters in Essex has dropped 17.5 percent.

Essex emergency 999 control operators are striking against cuts and imposed unworkable shift patterns.

One said, "Many of us have had to change from full time employment to job share in order to balance out family commitments with work due to management changes in our shift patterns."

Workers' stress levels have increased since bosses imposed a new computer system in January. It was taken out of action in May because it didn't work properly.

They have been forced to use an old mobilising system which is incompatible with new IT systems, and there is no sign of a new system being

fit for purpose soon.

The striker said, "Staff are working very hard to keep the service going."

Control operators struck last Saturday and Sunday and plan further walkouts on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week from 9am to 6pm, when they will be joined by firefighters again.

Further strikes have been called for Friday of this week and Tuesday of next week from between 9am and 6pm. ●Send messages of support on Twitter @EssexFBU or email EssexFBU@live.co.uk

Their RMT union describes the action as a "fight for pay and workplace justice".

The walkout is between 7am and 8pm. Workers voted by 100 percent for the action.

## HEALTH SERVICE



Health campaigners held a Crash Call for the NHS day of action in Shepherd's Bush, west London, last Saturday

## A mood for resistance at Calderstones

**HEALTH WORKERS at Calderstones Hospital in Lancashire plan to strike from 6am to 9.30am on Thursday of next week.**

They are fighting attacks on jobs, pay and local health services. The Unison union members voted by 99.4 percent to strike and backed action short of strike.

Unison assistant branch secretary Glen Harrison

spoke to Socialist Worker in a personal capacity. He said, "The ballot was strong—and the mood is even stronger."

"We've raised our membership dramatically, because we're the only union that's balloting for action."

Bosses are using the report into the Winterbourne View hospital abuse scandal to push through attacks. This recommended moving people

with learning disabilities and autism into community care.

But the NHS crisis and the decimation of social care makes this impossible.

Bosses are redeploying band 3 nurses to band 2—up to a 20 percent pay cut for some workers.

Workers are concerned that this could be a way of softening up the service for future privatisation.

## Wardens' action suspended

**A FOUR-DAY strike by traffic wardens in Camden, north London was suspended after bosses at private contractor NSL made a new offer.**

The strike had been set for Monday of this week.

### Higher

Members of the Unison union branch voted by almost nine to one to strike for higher pay.

They currently earn £8.92 per hour, less than the London Living Wage.

Workers rejected the offer overwhelmingly. More strike dates are to be announced.

## TRANSPORT



GUARDING THE guards' picket

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

## Fight for services, safety and jobs at First Great Western

THERE WAS widespread disruption across the First Great Western (FGW) rail network last Sunday as workers struck over jobs, safety and services.

A further 72-hour walkout is set for the bank holiday weekend.

The dispute stems from the introduction of new high-speed intercity trains. Talks with FGW bosses have made no progress over the core

issues, said the workers' RMT union.

It said these included "drivers being forced to take over door and dispatch functions which downgrades the safety-critical role of guards".

The removal of catering services and the threat to jobs among train maintenance engineers have also provoked the strikes.

**Raymie Kiernan**

## CITY CRUISES

## Walkout on the water

**WORKERS AT City Cruises on London's Thames River were set to strike on Thursday of this week.**

Their RMT union describes the action as a "fight for pay and workplace justice".

The walkout is between 7am and 8pm.

Workers voted by 100 percent for the action.

## EUROSTAR

**RAIL GOURMET workers on Eurostar were set to begin a 48-hour strike from 7pm on Thursday of this week.**

A 24-hour strike earlier in the week was scrapped in favour of the escalated action.

The workers' RMT union said they were angered by the company's "derisory" pay offer.

They are demanding that Rail Gourmet bosses offer a "significant increase" to pay and improvements to terms and conditions.

## TRAFFIC WARDENS



FREE PRIDE marchers in Glasgow

PICTURE: DUNCAN BROWN

**UP TO 5,000 marched through Glasgow for Pride last Saturday. This marked 20 years of Pride events in Scotland and the central theme was trans rights.**

The march was young and it was cheered along the route by people young and old.

Community and campaign groups were joined by union banners including PCS, Unison, FBU, EIS, Unite and Usdaw.

People voiced anger at

the Tories' cuts and calls for solidarity with the refugees in Calais got a great reception.

People were furious at Glasgow City Council for the commercialisation of the festival part of the day. Passes into the festival on Glasgow Green now cost up to £12.

The anger was also expressed with a small delegation at the end of the march chanting, "Pride not profit".

**Keith Boyd**

# GALLERY STRIKE GETS STRONGER

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

**AN APPEAL hearing** into the dismissal of PCS union rep Candy Udwini on Wednesday of last week upheld National Gallery bosses' decision to dismiss her.

But the workers, who are on all-out strike, are determined to beat the bosses' attack. National Gallery striker Arthur told Socialist Worker, "We'll keep fighting until Candy is reinstated."

Candy was suspended on the eve of workers' first five-day walkout against privatisation in January.

Bosses sacked her in May for "gross misconduct".

Candy had drafted a question for a PCS official about the cost of hiring private security firm CIS.

National Gallery bosses brought forward the privatisation of 300 jobs earlier this month.

Workers are fighting to maintain their terms and conditions under outsourcer Securitas.

Different groups of workers and campaigners are picking days to show solidarity.



NATIONAL GALLERY strikers and supporters on the picket line earlier this week

PICTURES: GUY SMALLMAN

Unite union construction workers joined the picket line last Saturday.

Mick Innes from Reading told Socialist Worker, "We know all about union busting firms in our industry.

"But taking a stand like this shows we're not isolated."

Building workers donated £250 to the strike fund and the CWU postal workers' union East Midlands region has agreed to donate £100 a week.

Stuart Graham is the Unison union rep for Glasgow homelessness caseworkers

who went on all-out strike and won. He told Socialist Worker, "We're collecting among the caseworkers and will be going around all the council stewards.

"We'll keep collecting as long as the strike continues."

Health workers in Whippens

Cross Hospital in east London collected £45 when they took a striker round last week.

Unison rep Sam Strudwick told Socialist Worker, "We set up a table in the canteen and loads of people came up to sign."

This self-activity is

boosting workers' confidence.

Striker Bart told Socialist Worker, "The first meeting we had since going all out was full. Then we couldn't fit everyone into the next one."

National Museum of Wales PCS members struck against attacks on weekend pay last Saturday.

National Galleries Scotland workers began a seven-day strike against a similar attack on Monday.

They were all set to strike together this Saturday.

Talks with new gallery director Gabriele Finaldi were ongoing as Socialist Worker went to press.

Bart said, "We're going to carry on until Candy's reinstated and we get what we want."

Workers spoke in a personal capacity. Some names have been changed.

Donate to the strike fund—Sort code 08 60 01, account no. 20169002. Cheques to PCS Culture Media and Sport Association, c/o PCS North West Region, Jack Jones House, 1 Islington, Liverpool L3 8EG. Visit picket lines from 9-11am every day and 5-6.30pm on Fridays. Contact strikers at noprivatisationatng@gmail.com

## LONDON UNDERGROUND

### Unions suspend Tube walkout—but more action could thrash the Tories

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

UNIONS HAVE suspended London Tube strikes planned for Tuesday and Thursday of this week.

The three unions—RMT, TSSA and Unite—said progress had been made in talks with bosses.

Full details were unclear as Socialist Worker went to press but the dispute is not over.

All four Tube unions—RMT, Aslef, TSSA and Unite—walked out in July and August over conditions for introducing Night Tube and over pay. Aslef was not part of



Tube workers picketing at Paddington, central London, in July

this week's action.

The RMT announced further strikes between 8 and 10 September.

It is right to do so as there is no guarantee bosses will stick to their word.

Only two months ago workers were being told they could "strike until they are blue in the face" but it wouldn't make a difference.

But RMT member Lynda told Socialist Worker, "Our action forced the bosses back to the table and it looks like significant concessions could be won.

"People feel we've moved forward and

action has got us there."

Unions are still fighting over jobs, conditions and the service in stations following a major cuts plan by Transport for London (TfL) bosses.

The RMT and TSSA struck against this last year.

But the dispute was never really settled due to a confused strike strategy.

Now ticket offices are being shut down across the Tube network.

This weakness hangs over the current dispute.

Lynda added, "It's good that we've set dates for September.

"But we should've

kept the action on this week until we settle for what we want."

One union official called the suspension a "goodwill gesture".

But there's not much goodwill coming from leading Tories in City Hall.

Transport committee member Richard Tracey has argued that bosses should take on "militant trade union leaders".

He called to "ban strikes on public transport".

Tube workers' action can shut these rabid Tories up.

They should use the next opportunity they get to give them a thrashing.